(e) The implementation of the Montreal Protocol is periodically being reviewed by an Empowered Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests.

National River Conservation Plan

2131. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the works undertaken by the National Rivers Conservation Plan (NRCP) during the last two years and the progress made in the works; and

(b) by when the projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV): (a) and (b) The works undertaken and progress made under the National Conservation Plan (NRCP) during the last 2 years is given below.

Works taken under Nation Conservation Plan:

Name of projects	No. of Project Sanctioned		No. of Projects completed
	2001-2002	2002-2003	2001-2003
Interceptin & Diversion	67	21	27
Sewage Treatment Plant	56	20	36
Low Cost Sanitation	20	2	16
River Front Development	17	5	6
Crematoria	7	3	4
Others	16	4	12
Total:	183	55	101

The period of completion differs from project to project.

Unauthorised construction of forest land

†2132. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether the unauthorised construction on forest land has increased on a large scale and the incidents of poaching of wild animals have also increased due to the absence of Forest Guards in sufficient numbers;

(b) if so, whether a large number of key posts in Forest Departments of the States are lying vacant; and

(c) the details of the steps to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Owing to a large number of vacancies among the frontiline staff in the Forest Departments of the States, development and protection of forests and wildlife is suffering. However, there are no reports of increase in unauthorised construction on a large scale on forest land and spurt in incidents of poaching of wild animals.

(c) Filling up of vacanices in State Forest Departments is the responsibility of the States. However, the Prime Minister has written to the Chief Ministers of all the States on 29-3-2001 emphasising, inter alia, on the need for filling up of vacant posts in Forest Department. Further, for improving wildlife protection, referring to the letter of the Prime Minister, the Minister of Enviornment and Forests has also written to the Chief Minister of all the States on 22-7-2002 urging to delegate the power of appointing field staff to the officials of Wildlife Wing of the State.

Increase in Endangered Species of Birds

†2133. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bombay Natural History Society and 'Bird Life International' have sounded a warning that the number of endangered speices of birds in India is increasing at an alarming rate;

(b) if so, whether these bodies have indicated that birds like Pinhead duck, Forest outlet, Zardones Coorser, Himalayan Mountain Qualea

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.